

THE CHAMPION

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No. 13

COUNTY POLITICS

INTERESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATES.

JUDGE JAS. PHELON A CANDIDATE.

Judge Jas. Phelon in this issue announces his candidacy for the position of county judge. We have known Judge Phelon for a number of years and can recommend him most truthfully to the favorable consideration of the voters. For nearly twenty years a citizen of DeSoto county he is thoroughly identified with our interests and is qualified in numerous ways to serve impartially and competently as county judge. He was mayor of Arcadia for one term and dealt out evenhanded justice while pursuing the duties of the office and we feel we can safely trust him in a more extended scope.

W. C. LANGFORD FOR RE-ELECTION.

W. C. Langford, the present incumbent at the tax collector's office seeks re-election to the position which, so far as we can learn, he has filled to the entire satisfaction of all. Will is a DeSoto county boy now grown to man's estate and capable and deserving of the office. We know of no one who will contest the position as it is pretty generally conceded that he can have the place if he wants it, and he this week tells us that he does.

WHAT ABOUT COUNTY DIVISION?

The County Division question is again agitating the public as it does every year when there are legislative candidates in the field. We gather from the Wauchula Advocate that that part of the county is anxious for division. Our legislative candidates have not defined their positions on that important subject. Will they now do so?

CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONER.

We call attention to the announcement in its proper column, of D. S. Williams, of Brownville, for county commissioner from this district. Mr. Williams has served the county both as tax collector and commissioner in previous years and is well known throughout the county. He has numerous relatives and friends who will be glad to see him elected, and will, no doubt, poll a handsome vote.

BURTON FOR REPRESENTATIVE.

In its proper column will be found the announcement of Jno. W. Burton as a candidate for representative of DeSoto county. His platform is broad and covers those features of the campaign that will be most discussed. We are gratified to note that Mr. Burton and THE CHAMPION agree on most political points. In fact we have long had a kindly and appreciative interest in this young man, who has been for a number of years a citizen among us. He has served us as mayor one term and as junior member of the law firm of Forrester & Burton has shown his ability in that line. His acquaintance with law will make him a valuable member of the solons who frame and pass our statutes.

EDITOR ASPIRANTS.

We are pleased to note that the male editors of the state are aspir-

ing to become statesmen. There's McCreary, of the Gainesville Sun, will be re-elected senator for his district, Appleyard, of the Lake City Index, wants to be railroad commissioner, Bittenger, of the Ocala Star, wants to be representative, McKensie, of the Palatka Times-Herald also wants to be a law maker same as Sparkman, of the Zolfo Advertiser, does. But the editor who really feels the weight of most responsibility upon his shoulders in governing this state at the present time is Caldwell, of the Jasper News. He has not yet said what particular office he is running for.

CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONER.

In its proper column will be found the announcement of S. S. Avant, who is candidate for county commissioner from this district. Mr. Avant has served us before as county commissioner and left a clean record. He is a man of his word, a citizen of the county for many years and well qualified to fill the office to which he aspires. He will poll a large vote.

WE ASKED FOR CRITICISM And We Got—

Have I heard of you, Mr. Child? Why, you are one of the contributors to this department in whom I take particular interest, although you may not have thought so from the manner in which I criticised your work (which was really, however, an exposition of that interest). I am glad to see that you have at least taken my advice and am sorry you have had the misfortune to be burned out. You formerly used your newspaper exclusively to advertise both it and your job printery, but I see that you are now using printed matter as well as the newspaper to advertise both departments of your business, as I advised you at least twice in this department. As to the card which you sent me (No. 3), I think it would prove to most people who receive it that you make no idle boast when you claim to do "Artistically Neat Printing." This card has the two lines, "On The Other End" and the line just quoted in red. The remainder is black. It follows many of the rules of composition such as are in line with the times and with advertising. And there is a characteristically CHAMPION-like originality combined with its simplicity.—National Printer-Journalist, Chicago.

Bowling Green Items.

J. R. Vaughan is putting in a nice little gasoline canning plant with the expectations of canning a good supply of tomatoes for home industry.

Messrs M. C. and A. O. Jones expect to be in their new concrete building in about two weeks.

A. M. Chester's new residence is nearing completion.

The vegetable growers are rushing the beans in now. Monday gave us sixteen crates beans for first shipment.

Property continues to change hands here. Mr. A. O. Graddy has exchanged his livery business for a farm near Bowling Green. The deal was made with Mr. Geo. Marsh.

"The Brethren," by H. Rider Haggard will appear in this paper in a few weeks.

PURITY IN POLITICS

A STRONG ARTICLE BY HON. J. A. BRYAN.

Please allow me through your paper to say a few words for a common cause in which we are all interested, stern and aggressive integrity in the administration of the affairs of our city, county and state. There was never a time in the history of our country when there was such a demand for stern aggressive integrity. I do not believe that the people of our country are any more dishonest than they were a hundred years ago, or worse than the average people of other countries. We should be the best people on earth, our advantages and environment are the best, our progress civilization and wealth are the greatest; our educational facilities are equal to any on earth. Our government if properly administered is the best in my opinion. Under all of these circumstances we should produce the best people on earth. Why do we read so much in every paper we pick up about graft and dishonesty in high places, from people who have no need to be dishonest, except to satisfy their greed for money and more money? I attribute it to several reasons; first, the great ambition of our people to excel each other, we teach in our schools, our business houses associated with greed for money in the minds of most of our business men fully occupies them to such an extent that they have no time to attend the matters of public interest or to accept office, or even attend religious services. God help our coming generation if our wives, mothers and sisters did not urge the Christian spirit and keep it alive in our homes. Matters of state and municipalities are too often left to men who are failures as business men and go to politics for a livelihood, many of whom are negatively honest men, but not aggressive, they are content to attend to their jobs and not trouble about what others are doing. They are accommodating and try not to offend as they want to be re-elected and hold their jobs. Such men are easy victims of the shrewd grafter, and to other influences that lead to fraud. Corporations find such men easy to get through such legislation as they want regardless of the right of the general public. A criminal uses such men to escape punishment, and for this cause we have a lax administration of our laws, a feeble resistance to aggressive grafters, objectionable laws put on our statute books for the benefit of private interest, evasion of the laws are dead easy by strong and aggressive trusts and corporations with all the machinery of the government in the hands of the negative honest man. I am speaking generally. Of course there are exceptions, and the exceptions are not rare. We have drifted in this direction until the condition, to say the least, is deplorable if not alarming. The shrewd grafter who goes into politics finds it easy to divert public funds and have them distributed in such a manner as to give him an indirect benefit, if not a direct one. In many instances the object for which money has been appropriated receives a small

per cent of the total amount appropriated. We would not have to go far from home to find an instance of that kind. After all political debts are paid, all friends taken care of, all rebates and commissions are paid, the county or city has but little left. What is everybody's business no one attends to, and we drift in the same direction. The responsibility rests upon every citizen, we must not only realize that he who diverts a penny from the object it was appropriated for and becomes in any way a beneficiary, is a thief. He that uses public office to promote his private interest for future office, or any way to his advantage to the detriment of the public for which his office was intended, is a thief. He that holds out inducements to an official to evade the law for his benefit is just as guilty. He that pays his political debts with public funds by appointing incompetent men to public office as a reward for private obligation, is not true to his trust and worse than a thief. The negative honest man who looks on and sees the treasury plundered and does not interfere for fear of injuring his own prospects, is a common type of official and ought to be labelled and not voted for—he is more dangerous than the thief. Vote for men of stern qualities, aggressively honest men. We have plenty of them they are not looking for office, but they should be induced to accept.

Another great cause for this condition is that the builders of the public conscience have been negligent of their duty, they have been lukewarm, and not aggressive enough. The public conscience is the most important factor in our government. Our court houses, city halls and state houses are paralyzed without it. Every individual has a part to do in the building of this most important structure, and each individual is a workman. None of us can escape this responsibility—some people call it public opinion. There seems now a general awakening of the public conscience, a demand for cleaner things, aggressive integrity. A spirit of investigation seems to prevail in our whole country. Let us not in this neck of the woods fail to get in the procession, for our public conscience needs strengthening. Let our builders take courage; let the press and pulpit frame large and strong; don't be afraid of infringing on private interests, or drawing off the patronage; the majority of people want things done the right way, so hammer strong on that line; the people will follow and you can find lots of willing hands to help build this structure.

I do not desire to be understood as trying to get up a reform movement, for that is the weapon of too many smooth politicians to cover up their graft or to get in office. I only want to call the attention of those that are already reformed to the duty they owe to the affairs of city, county and state. Don't trade your influence, your vote for any private interest; use it for the best interest of your city, your county, your state; use it for a better administration of public affairs. A majority of people want cleaner politics, honest administration of public funds. It is in our hands—why cannot we (Continued on page four.)

NEWS OF FLORIDA

INTERESTINGLY TOLD FOR BUSY READERS.

A letter received from Washington states that Col. T. J. L. Brown, owing to the difference in the climate of the District of Columbia and Tampa, was the victim of an attack of la grippe shortly after arriving at the capital, which caused his confinement to bed for five days, with a physician constantly in attendance. He is out again, however, and will appear before the committee on international expositions in behalf of the isthmian exposition Wednesday afternoon.—Tampa Times.

For some time friends of Hon. P. M. Trammell throughout the district have been urging him to make the race for congress against Hon. S. M. Sparkman. Their solicitations have crystalized into earnest effort within the past few days, and several influential journals, notably the Bartow Record and the Tampa Herald, have published strong articles advocating his candidacy.

Mr. Trammell, after giving the matter due consideration, authorizes the News to state that he will not be a candidate.—Lakeland News.

Mrs. S. T. Fletcher, of Tampa, has purchased the property known as the Briggs place, on Massachusetts avenue, at present occupied by Z. Middlebrook, and will make her home in this city. There is a small cottage on the property, fronting Lemon street, and this Mrs. Fletcher will have remodeled and made into a modern musical studio. Mrs. Fletcher is one of the most accomplished musicians in the south, and her coming to Lakeland is a distinct gain for the community. The fact that she has purchased property here and will devote her entire time to Lakeland pupils, speaks well for her confidence in the town's future, and for the interest our people have in the loveliest of the arts.—Lakeland News.

Mrs. John B. Stetson has placed the trustees of Stetson University in a rather unenviable position. She offers to give the university \$100,000, provided all the trustees resign. The question at Stetson now is: Are the present trustees worth more than \$100,000 to the university?—Tampa Tribune.

Those trustees who voted against the reorganization of the board and not to accept Mr. and Mrs. Stetson's proposition to give the \$100,000 were: W. S. Jennings, John F. Forbes, D. U. Fletcher, B. F. Camp, W. H. Stewart (not Judge Stewart), E. B. Solomon, W. A. Hobson.

Those who voted to resign and to accept the \$100,000 offered by Mr. Stetson two days previous to his death, and renewed after his death by Mrs. Stetson, were: J. T. Clarke, H. A. DeLand, F. C. Edwards, Doctor Hulley, S. V. Hough, Hon. T. J. Longdon, F. B. Moody, J. E. Oates, E. O. Painter, T. C. Search, T. J. Sparkman, H. B. Stevens, S. A. Wood, S. B. Wright, Mr. Conrad being absent.—Volusia County Record.